The State Hornet

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Sac State student dies while riding bicycle



Photo Courtesy of News10

Senior psychology major Arlene Sasse died Friday morning after being hit by a vehicle while riding her bike toward Carlson Drive. She was 22. A service was held Tuesday at the Sacramento Memorial Lawn.

By Yvette Villasenor
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Sacramento State senior psychology major Arlene Sasse died after being struck early Friday morning while riding her bike near the campus' J Street entrance. She was 22 years old.

Sasse was traveling southbound toward Carlson at 1:45 a.m. when she was hit by a vehicle driving westbound on J Street, said Sacramento Police Sgt. Norm Leong.

Sasse was hit about 100 yards from where a "ghost bike" is chained to a pole at Carlson and H streets. The ghost bike is a memorial to another bicyclist who was hit and killed last year.

Leong said the 60-year-old woman who hit Sasse immediately pulled over. The driver said she did not see the bicyclist.

Sasse was rushed to the UC Davis Medical Center after the accident where she was later pronounced dead.

Leong said the driver was "likely within" the speed limit, however Sasse did not have reflectors on her bike – which may have contributed to the accident.

"No alcohol or other drugs were involved in the scene, however investigators have not determined fault at this time," Leong said.

Sasse planned to graduate this semester on May 20 with a degree in psychology.

Rachel Crossman, a close friend of Sasse's and the family, said Sasse was born in the Netherlands, but later moved to the U.S. when she was 3 so her father could take a research position at UC Berkeley.

Sasse lived in the Bay Area city of Albany and was an avid volleyball player growing up. She played on the Albany High School team and the Golden Bear Volleyball Club in Berkeley.

Sasse worked as an office assistant at the Sac State Testing Center.

Crossman said Sasse loved music and taught herself to play the guitar. She also enjoyed shopping for bargains at Goodwill stores. She admired the fashions of the 1950s and '60s.

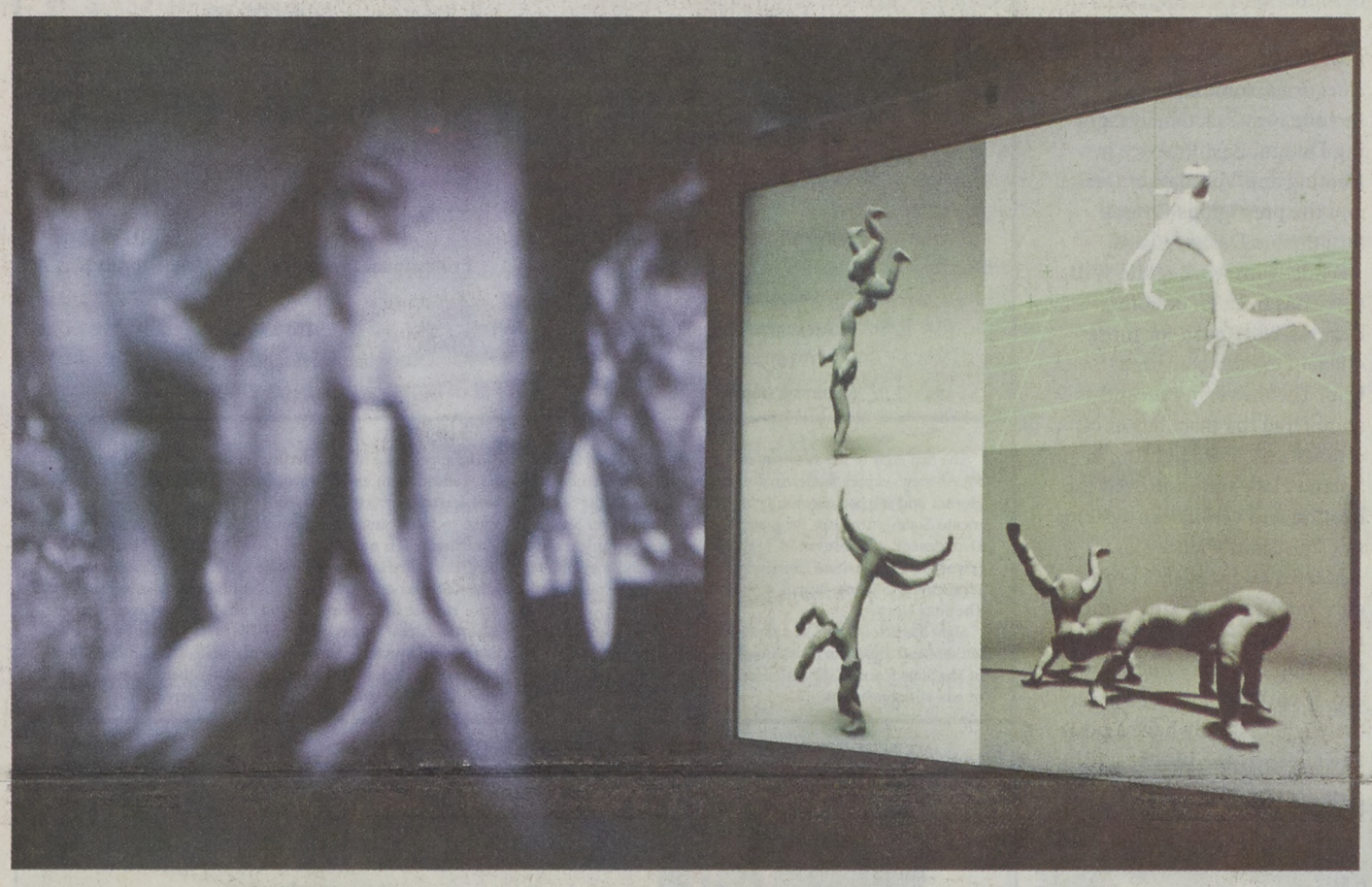
"She was a vibrant and vivacious girl," Crossman said. "She has left tears of shock and sorrow among strong young men, of heartbreak and loss in her family. Throughout our kids' high school years, Arlene was the funny, polite, sweet one who was always playing volleyball."

Crossman said she will never forget when Sasse helped build a stage for her son's backyard punk rock show.

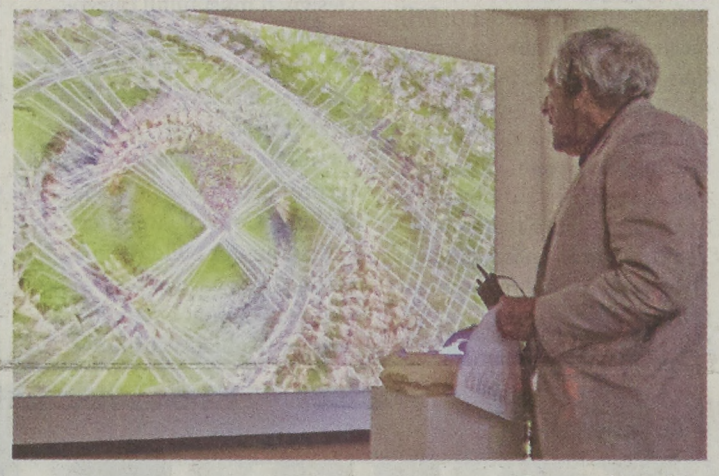
"She took the stage in unforgettable style, rocked with the boys, and was a delightful girl," Crossman said.

A service was held Tuesday at the Sacramento Memorial Lawn.

Exhibit showcases 3-D advancement







Photos by Ashley Neal

Far left: Jose Carlos Casado's "Aliens with Extraordinary Abilities" is one of many artists' 3-D work that fill the Library Gallery until May 28. Top right: Zeitguised's award-winning piece titled "Peripetics or The Installation of an Irreversible Axis on a Dynamic Timeline" was installed in the Library Gallery. Bottom right: Mead Kibbey is fascinated by one of the artworks.

By Matt Harrington
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A new exhibition opened to the public on Friday displaying the works of 20 artists who used technology that was once relegated to the construction industry, video games and movies.

The exhibition, titled "The Real Fake," will be on display until May 28 in the first floor gallery of the Library. Each art piece utilizes the virtual "XYZ" space to give each non-referenced object, a figure without substance in the 1-D and 2-D plane, depth and texture.

One of the unique pieces in the exhibition titled "The Seasons," has a plaster sculpture of a woman sitting in a chair while the virtual camera moves the figure in 3-D space in a circle. All the while flowers are growing from the body and then disappearing as the figure seems to be breathing slightly and melting away.

The artist is Claudia Hart; she is also co-curator of the exhibition. Hart is also an assistant professor in the department of film, video, new media and animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

She said industries using 3-D programming, such as construction firms, video game and movie studios, only ask for their designers to concentrate in specific areas within the given industry. Hart said when teaching her students to use the programming, she encourages them to explore the boundaries of the programming to create their art.

"Previously, 3-D was only taught in an industrial environment, teaching students to be cogs in a production pipeline. That means that you were educated right from the start to be a specialist and have expertise in one tiny area of the medium," Hart said. "This is counter to the way design and art is taught in all other medium, from painting, to photography, architecture, graphic design and web design. I've made an effort to define 3-D as an art, a design medium like any other, and I have it taught the way other art and design media are taught."

Hart said conventional art does not have to worry about its place in popular culture.

"Some mediums seem to be more relevant at different

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Capital Fellows internship ranked top-10

By Sean Keister
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The Capital Fellows Program at Sacramento State was recently named by the Career Intelligence Vault as one of 2010's top 10 internships in the United States.

Capital Fellows is put on by the Center for California Studies at Sac State and is an internship that gives graduates experience working in state government.

Tim Hodson, the program's executive director, said the honor of being one of the best internships in the country is an honor to him and everybody involved with Capital Fellows.

"It is a testimony to the quality of the fellows – what they have accomplished and the quality of the staff and the various individuals who have worked for the center and the programs over the years," Hodson said.

Maria Abesa is an alumna from UCLA with a bachelor's in political science. She is in the judicial administration fellowship, which is the only one of the Capital Fellows Program that is based in counties throughout the state, rather than just Sacramento.

Abesa said she is not surprised by Vault's recognition of the program. She said the staff works very hard to keep the program running.

"The program directors and the placements hosting the fellows are sensitive to our needs, and the emphasis is on educating the fellow and accommodating their specific interests," Abesa said. "It's pretty clear to me that Capital Fellows can certainly hold its own against any other internship from both the public and private sectors."

Raul DeLaRosa is an alumnus from San Jose State University who has been in the Executive Fellowship program since November, where he works for a renewable energy team as a fellow.

"I think the Capitol Fellows being in the top 10 reflects the hard work that the staff has put into creating a comprehensive experience, and the success former fellows have had in their lives as a result of hard work and applying what they've learned from the program," DeLaRosa said.

The Capital Fellows is a year-long program that is open to all four-year graduates from various campuses across California.

There are a total of 64 fellows in the program: 18 from the Assembly, executive and Senate programs, and 10 from the judicial administrative program.

Fellows get paid $1,972 a month, in addition to receiving academic credit, health, dental and vision benefits.

Hodson said to become a fellow, the applicant must have a bachelor's degree in any major,

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File Photo

Capital Fellows was named a top-10 internship in the United States.

Inside the State Hornet

Women's Gymnastics



How did women's gymnastics finish its season?

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Rebecca Black

Is Rebecca Black a huge joke or comedic genius? Dante Frattini discusses the impact of her hit single, "Friday" and the marketing behind it. Did the 78 million plays on YouTube really change the rest of her life? Will America soon see her on Disney?

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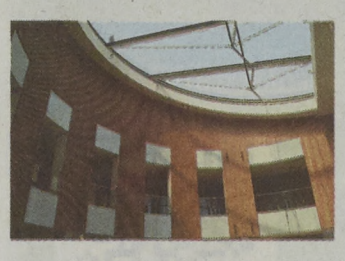
New Millenium



What happens when Sac State faculty show their musical side?

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Energy Sustainability



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Online News statehornet.com

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Issue 10 | Volume 63 | No. 24

Sac State focuses on 'green' campus with energy savings

By Brett Johnson
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Sacramento State has been continuing with green practices around campus, and is hoping to receive recognition for its energy conservation efforts in the Well.

Sustainability was fundamental to the design of the campus' 150,000 square-foot recreation center. The Well was constructed with environmentally friendly heating and ventilation systems, energy-efficient lighting and boilers that are meant to reduce pollution.

For the construction of the Well, Sac State is seeking recognition from organizations like the U.S. Green Building Council, which acknowledge colleges that design and operate buildings in ways that conserve resources and reduce impact on climate change.

The California State University system set a goal to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by the end of fiscal year 2009-10, which lead to stricter energy usage compliance requirements. Nat Martin, Sac State's energy conservation coordinator, claims the Well surpasses CSU standards by more than 20 percent.

"We've had mandates to control energy use since the early '70s," Martin said. "We try to do things like install lighting that gives the same amount of light with less wattage in an attempt to remain as energy efficient as possible."

The campus' American River Courtyard residence hall received recognition from multiple organizations for its focus of sustainability. The engineering that went into the courtyard lead to it being named Best Public Project in 2010 by the Sacramento Business Journal. The courtyard's energy efficient practices also attained recognition and a large rebate from SMUD.

U.S. Green Building Council awards Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification to buildings that are constructed using energy conservation concepts. Last year, the courtyard earned the school their first gold certification for implementing eco-friendly refrigerants and highly efficient lighting and ventilation.



File Photo

The Well's ventilation and lighting systems have created an energy-efficient building.

"The second Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified building on campus will be the Well," Martin said. "We are currently waiting to see if we get a silver or gold rating."

For a building to attain certification from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, it must fulfill categories such as energy and water efficiency, innovation in design and sustainability. There are a total of seven categories and up to 100 attainable credits, according to the U.S. Green Building Council's website.

"In order for building to be certified you have to receive a certain amount of credits," said Joel Padilla, a customer service representative for the U.S. Green Building Council. "The more credits you earn, the higher the certification level. It can range from silver to gold to platinum."

Another award the American River Courtyard received was the Best Practice Award for Overall Sustainable Design, which is presented at the annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference.

For another opportunity to bring attention to the green features of the Well, Sac State submitted an application for an award at this year's conference at CSU Long Beach. The conference will be held in July, which is when the awards will be given out.

"The conference is a chance for higher education entities to share ideas and collaborate on sustainability," said Wesley Morgan, the CSU system's energy program manager. "It's also an opportunity to honor the energy conservation efforts of schools."

Awareness of ecology is rewarded through multiple categories, some of the awards include Best Practice in Lighting Design, Best Practice in Heating and Ventilation Design and the prestigious Overall Sustainable Design award.

Aside from work at the Well, there has been an ongoing campus-wide push for more efficient energy consumption. The university recently completed the installation of cleaner florescent lighting in Solano Hall, and improved the heating and ventilation systems in Capistrano Hall.

Martin said students probably would not visually notice most of the changes shifting the campus toward being more eco-friendly, but a greener Sac State will certainly have a positive effect on the future.

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ASI president switches position with student activity fees

BY TIM SANDOVAL
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Associated Students Inc. President Terry Martin switched his position from encouraging ASI to draft a resolution for student fee increases that support athletics and The State Hornet to stating that he was not sure ASI should take a position on the fees.

After his State of the Students address in March, Martin said he "strongly disagreed" with Gonzalez's decision to overturn the student vote.

He said ASI should pass a resolution stating its position on President Alexander Gonzalez's decision, and said that he had been working on one.

"Its something that I have been working on with several other board members for the duration of the year," Martin said. "So something should go out before my term is over. But I think it really is a crying shame that its taken this long."

But Martin downplayed the work that he had done on this issue in a subsequent interview, and said he was unsure whether ASI should take a position on the fees.

"Its an idea that has been going around," Martin said. "But it is kind of an old issue."

When asked if he had switched his position, Martin replied:

"Basically," Martin said. "But I still feel strongly about the issue."

The issue stems from a 2009 student vote, in which students rejected fees that support athletics and the Hornet newspaper. Despite this, Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez increased student activity fees that support athletics by $18, this year by $22, and will increase them $22.50 in 2011-12 – making the athletics fee add up to $125 per semester.

Martin said that he would present the issue to ASI Board, and talk to the administration to get more information on the subject. He said that it was up to the ASI Board whether any action would be taken.

"It really comes down to what new information we find," Martin said.

In his second interview, Martin said the fact that Gonzalez could only reject or accept the student vote with "no wiggle room" had begun to change his thinking on the matter.

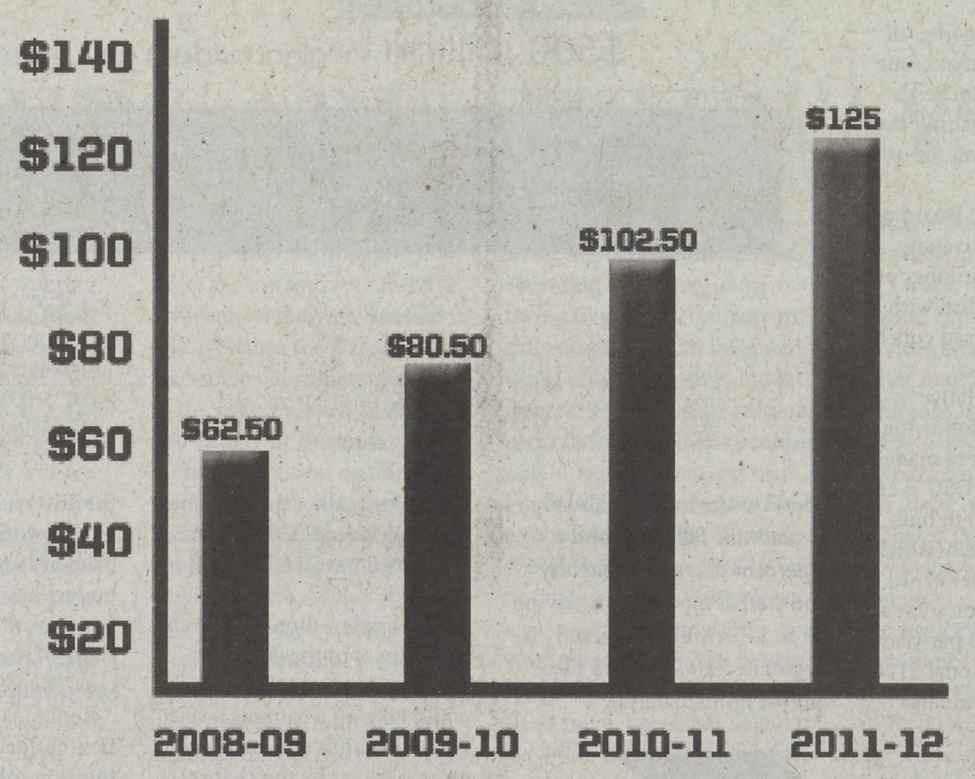
"It is a complex issue," Martin said. "Accepting the student vote would have led to athletics having to cut of some its programs, and led to less educational opportunities for students."

In his first interview, Martin also said he wished then-ASI President Roberto Torres had taken a stronger position on Gonzalez's decision, and felt Torres had not done so for "political reasons."

Last year, ASI passed a resolution stating that it wanted more transparency from the athletics department on how it was spending student fee dollars, but took no position on Gonzalez's decision. Martin voted in favor of the resolution.

Torres said he brought to the ASI Board the possibility of suing the CSU and Sac State to rescind the fees. The idea was rejected because ASI felt it would be too costly.

"We had the option, and good legal grounds, to sue the CSU, and Sac State, for a violation of state law," Torres said. "This is what students wanted, but was it the best option for us? I did not believe so, and neither did the board, which Terry Martin was a part of and agreed with."



GRAPHIC BY MEGAN HARRIS

Torres said the legal battle could have cost student fee-supported ASI hundreds of thousands of dollars – with legal fees of up to $200 per hour – and cost Sac State and the athletics department more money as well, further impacting Sac State.

"As a leader of the student body, I did what was best for students, not what was popular at the moment – something that our current leaders forget needs to be done at times," Torres said.

Martin said a lawsuit is off the table because he is unsure whether a lawsuit would be successful.

"The president's powers are very vast," Martin said. "If we were to bring a lawsuit, we would have to make sure that students were getting the best bang for their buck."

The Hornet on March 3 requested an interview with Gonzalez. John Kepley, special assistant to the president, said Gonzalez was not available to speak to the Hornet.

Kepley said for both programs, inflation and increased costs were the main reason behind Gonzalez's decision.

"Especially with athletics, tuition had increased so much that there was a need to increase the fee to pay for scholarships," Kepley said.

With the $18 per semester increase in student activity fees, athletics brought in $4.5 million in revenue from student fees last year – the department's largest source of revenue. The previous year, student activity fees brought $3.5 million in revenue to athletics.

Sac State has 16 sports teams for the 2010-11 school year.

The Hornet reported in February that despite the increase in student fees, the sports program ran a deficit in the 2009-10 school year.

According to official Sac State Athletics accounting documents, athletics ran a deficit of $417,959 for the 2009-10 school year, after encumbered expenses and revenue from the Sacramento Mountain Lions football team are taken into account.

Sac State sports spokesman Brian Berger said the primary reason for the deficit was the installation of new field turf in Hornet Stadium, which will be fully paid for in 2014. He said the projects' costs are not being paid for with student fees or with state money.

Berger said the addition of field turf allows Sac State to host more events at Hornet Stadium, including the United Football League's Sacramento Mountain Lions, which brought $300,000 of revenue for sports in 2009.

The Sacramento Mountain Lions hosted its debut season at Hornet Stadium last year and will host the MoLos for the 2011 season.

With the 50-cent increase in the Hornet fee implemented this year, the newspaper is projected to bring in $138,293 in revenue from student fees, up from the previous year in which it made $134,196 from student fees, a 3 percent increase.

Holly Heyser, faculty adviser to the Hornet, said this year's total projected student fee revenue actually represents a decrease in funds from student fees from just two years.

Two years ago – without the 50-cent increase – the newspaper brought in $140,161 from student fees due to decreased student enrollment.

The fee originally approved by students in 1999 was $2.50 per student per semester, but by 2009, that was worth $1.96 in 1999 dollars, Heyser said.

"We tried to keep the fee increase as reasonable as possible," Heyser said. "If the original fee had been structured to keep up with inflation, it would have increased slowly over that decade. But that's wasn't how it was designed, so we needed a 50-cent increase just to get us closer to the original value of the fee."

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Budget proposal for CSUs increase after mandatory costs

By Sean Keister
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Consideration is underway at Sacramento State on how best to handle Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed year-to-year reduction of $500 million in CSU funding for the 2011-12 school year.

After $50 million in mandatory costs, including heightened energy and employee health premiums, have been factored in, the CSU will actually need to address a $550 million total gap in funding.

Kimberly Nava, Sac State spokeswoman, said it is too early to tell exactly what kind of effect this proposal will have.

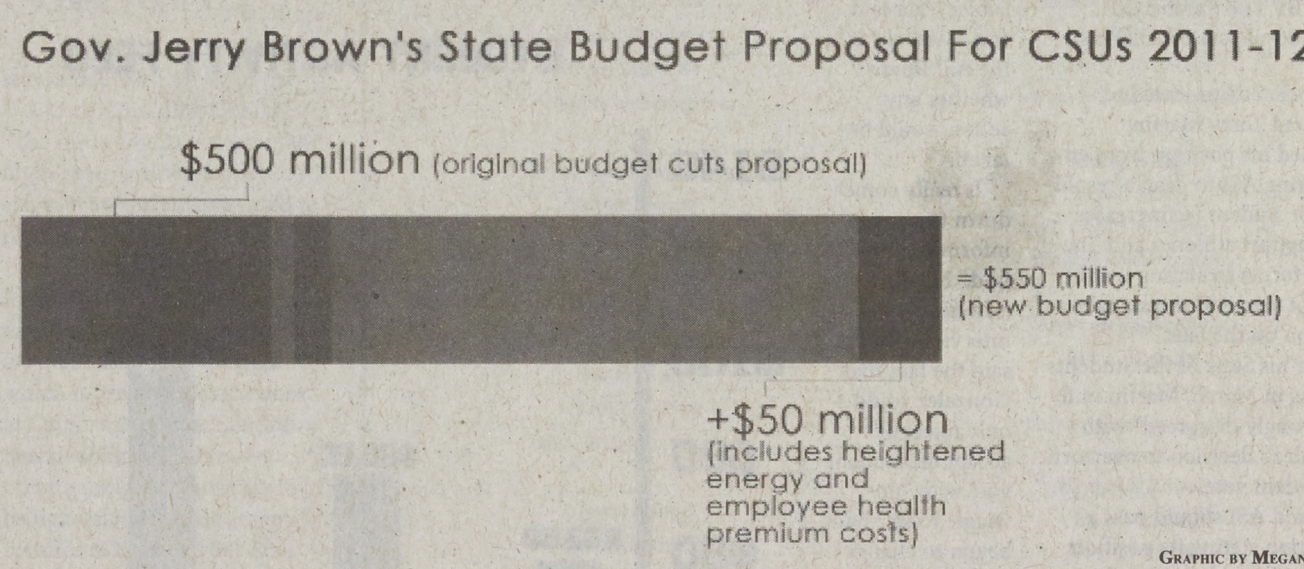
"We are not certain yet how a cut of this magnitude would affect Sacramento State specifically – and it is our hope that it doesn't come to that," Nava said.

Olivia Estrada, junior photography major, is not surprised by the possibility of further funding cuts.

"With what's been going on the last two years, it makes me angry. But I'm not shocked," Estrada said. "I don't think they have any consideration for us at all. It's all financial."

At a March 22 CSU Board of Trustees meeting, university officials looked at a number of strategies of how to deal with the governor's proposed cuts to CSU funding.

According to Legislative Analyst's Office, the following recommendations were made if state support for the CSU is cut: a 5 percent reduction in budgeted enrollment levels (which would mean 20,000 fewer students served), a tuition increase of 10 percent or $480 per year (generating an additional $120 million) for undergraduates added to the increase already in place for fall 2011, and a 5 percent decrease in faculty and staff compensation (saving up to $158 million, but only if negotiated and put into place almost immediately).



Graphic by Megan Harris

Even with all of these recommendations enacted, the CSU would still have a $162 million shortfall.

John Kepley, director of public affairs, said these proposals are not actions the school could take on a campus level. He said tuition and enrollment targets are set by the chancellor's office, and faculty and staff compensation are for the most part prescribed by collective bargaining agreements.

"Based on the $500 million proposal, the University Budget Advisory Committee is asking all divisions to plan for a 9.7 percent reduction, or about $12.88 million," Nava said. "Divisions are now preparing those plans."

Alex Yu, senior chemistry major, said he is not surprised by the likely cuts. He said it is best if students try to graduate as soon as possible before things get any worse.

"They've been saying 'We're OK,' but tuition keeps increasing," Yu said. "Seems like the more they cut, the further we are from the budget."

Yu said he is now numb to the process.

"We can't really do anything about it," he said. "We can go on strike, but we need our diplomas. We need school."

Kepley said Sac State is planning for the cuts outlined in the governor's budget proposal.

"The work we have done to prudently manage the campus budget has left us in a relatively better position to handle our share of the current proposal's cuts," Kepley said.

Kepley said the administration has decreased expenditures on many levels. He said, for example, it has ensured that enrollment is not too small or too large, and resisted the temptation to use one-time funding for permanent spending commitments.

"President Gonzalez also works closely with the University Budget Advisory Committee," Kepley said. "The faculty, staff and students on the committee have gained valuable experience in recent years as our campus has weathered cut after cut."

Gonzalez originally addressed Sac State about the proposed budget cuts during the Spring Address held in the University Union.

Jenna Mahoney, junior psychology major, said she is most disappointed with the number of courses that have been cut, resulting in larger class sizes.

"It's not about the quality of education," Mahoney said.

Nava said the school is doing all it can to keep cuts to a minimum. She said going by the proposed $500 million reduction to the CSU system, Sac State continues to plan for a 2011-12 enrollment target of 21,625, about the same as the current year.

"We are working very hard to limit the CSU's reduction to $500 million," Nava said. "President Gonzalez, Chancellor Reed and other CSU officials are communicating regularly with state legislators – with the message that California needs to invest in public higher education to ensure future economic prosperity. "

Daniel Buchanan, senior business major, said he can see where the school is coming from, and it needs to save money and look at all options.

Buchanan said he favors cutting enrollment levels so more seats would be available, but is not sure about the recommendations that would cut the salary of professors.

"You want well-educated people teaching. It's going to have a bad effect on future leaders," Buchanan said. "Sac State is already one of the cheapest universities to attend. It might even be a way to improve the prestige of the school if they increase tuition."

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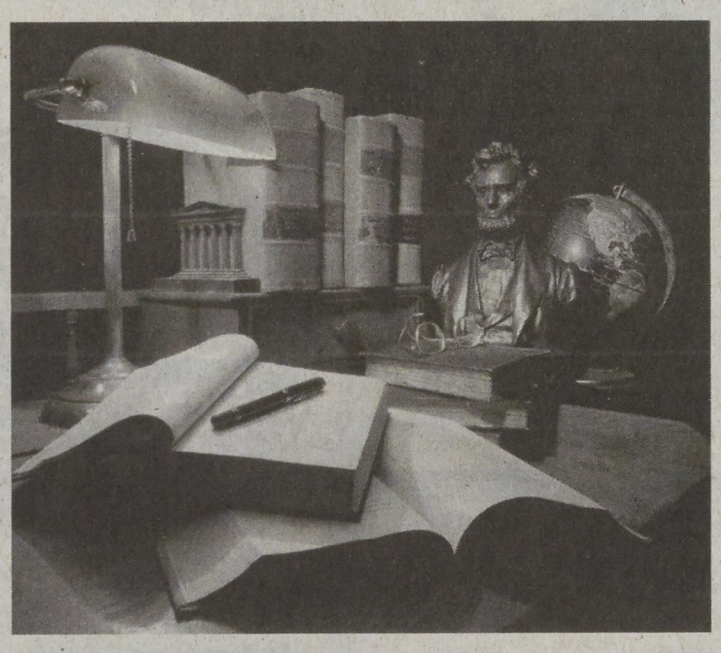
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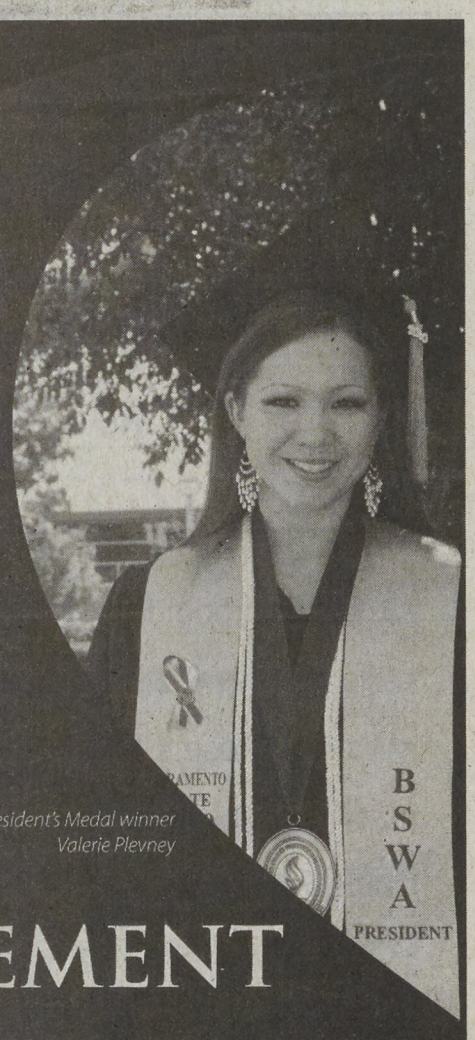
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College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
10:30 a.m. Graduates arrive
11:30 a.m. Commencement begins

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
1:30 p.m. Graduates arrive
2:30 p.m. Commencement begins

College of Arts and Letters
4 p.m. Graduates arrive
5 p.m. Commencement begins



President's Medal winner
Valerie Plevney

Spring 2011
COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 21, 2011
Power Balance Pavilion
(formerly Arco Arena)

College of Health and Human Services
7:30 a.m. Graduates arrive
8:30 a.m. Commencement begins

College of Education
11 a.m. Graduates arrive
Noon Commencement begins

College of Engineering and Computer Sciences
2 p.m. Graduates arrive
3 p.m. Commencement begins

College of Business Administration
5 p.m. Graduates arrive
6 p.m. Commencement begins

SACRAMENTO STATE
Leadership begins here.

Important Commencement Information
Caps and gowns are available now at the ASI Student Shop on the third floor of the University Union, (916) 278-7916, and online at www.asi.csus.edu. Purchase them early to ensure proper size.

Sign up at csus.edu/commence

EDITORIAL

INTERNSHIPS ARE GATEWAYS TO JOBS

The semester is two-thirds over, and that means seniors are five weeks closer to graduation. For those who do not have a job lined up, it can be a scary time indeed.

Stop tearing your hair out, put down the alcohol and get proactive. If you have been unable to secure a job, take a look at internships instead.

You have two major options as a student looking for an internship: Flying solo and doing it on your own, or utilizing the campus' resources.

Beth Miller, the director of the Academic Advising and Career Center, said you would not be the first to turn to the university for help.

"We see over 30,000 students per year through our events, workshops, drop-ins and individual appointments," Miller said.

There are not 30,000 students at Sacramento State, meaning students are going to multiple events. What does this mean to you? It means you need to go to multiple events, too, and increase the likelihood that a prospective employer will see your resume and want to hire you. Even landing an unpaid internship is a step above unemployment, as it sets you up for getting a better job in the future. And it is definitely better than a job that requires you to ask if the customer wants to super-size his or her meal.

"Some of the employers have let us know they place up to 70 percent of their interns into full-time positions," Miller said. "For some employers the internships are the processes that hire their full-time employees."

But wait, you say, what if they have no internship opportunities for my skill set? Not a problem, as there are smaller offices within the Career Center, with a coordinator for each of the colleges, such as Arts and Letters or Business.

From there, you could be connected with companies such as Disney, Blue Shield, the Mayor's Office, the FBI, the CIA and more, Miller said.

"We can assist students with locating internships since we have already made the employer contacts, which avoids students having to 'cold call' employers to find out about internship programs," Miller said. "There are a lot of success stories about students who did an internship and ended with full-time employment."

Of course, not all internships come easy, or even turn into a employment opportunities. Spending an entire summer trying to get any company to call you back for an internship is not only frustrating, but it does nothing for your resume or student loans. After sending out 30 applications, just hearing back from one seems like a success. When the summer is over, you are crushed to find out that while you were given a great recommendation – and your resume looks the better for it, there is no offer for a job. Been there, done that, failed to get a job. But at least a resume with an internship is better than a resume with no experience at all.

Ian Myles, sophomore nursing major, had no offer to continue working for pay in his internship at the governor's office, either – but he is in good standing in the office.

"I was a mail intern. It was a good experience, to see the environment," Myles said. "The other mail interns continued with jobs in the mail office. If I knocked on the door and asked, I could probably get a job there, no problem."

That is the advantage of an internship: Whether or not you get the job, you get to see the work environment, you get experience and you get in good standing with those in your industry, assuming you do a good job while you are an intern.

"The propensity (for hiring) is higher for students who have internship experience versus those who have not work experience in their field," Miller said.

None of this matters if you do not get a start right around the time of now.

Miller's advice is to start as early as possible.

"It's a process that takes more than just a couple of weeks," she said. "We encourage students to start the process the semester prior to when they actually want an internship."

While it is a bit too late to do that, you still have five weeks to try to find an internship before summer starts. Dry clean that business suit, make some fresh copies of your resume, and walk with confidence to the Career Center. You might just have a job lined up after graduation, or at least for the summer, after all.

See related news story on A1.



EDITORIAL CARTOON COURTESY OF MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE

Are we helping matters in Libya? Find out how Libyans can help themselves with social networking such as Facebook and Twitter in Kelly Walter's column at statehornet.com

Guest column: An open letter and invitation to President Gonzalez

Dear President Gonzalez and the Sacramento State campus community,

On March 2, more than 150 students, staff and faculty met to discuss the budget situation and our campus climate. In the 90-minute meeting, there were many suggestions for how the campus might mitigate our perilous budget situation and maximize the ability for faculty and staff to deliver a high quality curriculum to our students. This is the core mission of the California State University and we must protect instruction as we consider the fiscal realities of the State.

In the past two years the CSU administration has given $6.5 million in raises to managers while denying salary increases to faculty and staff and increasing student tuition. Furthermore, the administration has opposed an oil and gas severance tax that would support public higher education as well as Sen. Leland Yee's transparency bill. We believe that these actions erode the core mission of the university, and we call on you to take a public stand in support of the student, staff and faculty concerns.

In light of recent and proposed budget cuts, we, the faculty, students and staff of Sac State demand that the president take the following actions to minimize the impact on our students' educations:

1. No increases in managerial salaries or positions until faculty and staff receive general salary increases, student tuition is rolled back, and faculty and staff positions are restored. We demand that you publicly reject any salary increases for yourself or other managers, and forego the housing and car allowances – giving it to student scholarships instead.

2. Publicly support an oil extraction fee that is dedicated to support higher education.

3. Make good on your promise of 2006-07 to achieve salary equity for associate and full professors as promised prior to the last contract.

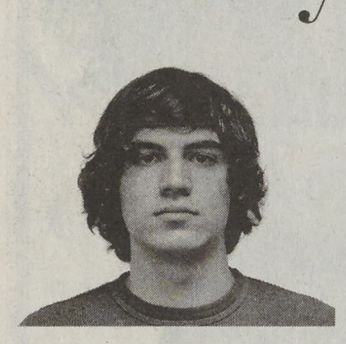
4. Open the University Enterprises, Inc. books to faculty and the public. This money is generated by the faculty, staff, students and the public, and must not be hidden. Publicly support Yee's CSU Auxiliary transparency bill (SB 8).

We call on you, President Alexander Gonzalez, to publicly address these demands to the campus community prior to the April 13 gathering of students, staff, and faculty in the Library Quad at 12:30 p.m.

Signed, Professor Kevin Wehr on behalf of concerned faculty, staff and students at CSUS.

Kevin Wehr, California Faculty Association Capitol Chapter president and associate sociology professor.

'Friday' song is comedic genius



BY DANTE FRATTINI
dfrattini@statehornet.com

The hottest music video of the past year comes from an artist who no one had ever heard of, and who nobody seems to like.

Rebecca Black's "Friday" has been the most mocked music video of 2011, and also the most interesting thing I have seen in a long time. Sorry, Coen Brothers – "True Grit" was a close second, but it didn't inspire the kind of thought-provoking questions that "Friday" did.

Since her video's Feb. 10 debut, it has been viewed more than 78 million times; I'll take credit for about two dozen of those.

It all started when I mindlessly clicked a Facebook link to the video. I began watching the video the same way I wish I had first watched "Fight Club" – completely ignorant to what it contained.

So many thoughts ran through my mind as I watched it. I read some of the comments – all negative, and thought, "No. no. They've got it all wrong!"

"Friday" isn't awful. It is absolute genius!

It was one of the most entertaining and captivating times I've had in under five minutes that didn't involve nudity or baby oil.

And it wasn't one of those "it's so bad, it's good" situations.

Warning: admittedly far-fetched conspiracy theory ahead.

Anyone who says they like the video or song doesn't mean they think it's a good video or a good song. They mean it's hilarious. And I agree. But I don't buy that this piece of comedic gold was the result of a train wreck caused by inept songwriting and mediocre talent.

I can't buy it. Not if I want to remain a person who still thinks there is some good in the world.

I think a comedic genius orchestrated (geddit?! Orchestrated! Like a song! Never mind.) the entire thing.

Does anyone know what Dave Chappelle is up to now? Maybe T-Pain, Kanye and Chappelle teamed up to create the perfect pop music parody. A parody so perfect it was nearly undetectable.

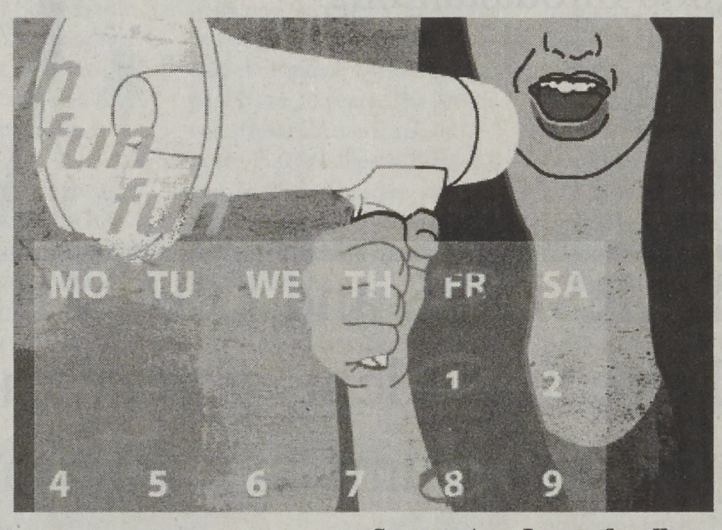
Too bad I'm the Sherlock Holmes of BS.

Consider the line "Kicking in the front seat/sitting in the back seat/gotta make my mind up/ which seat can I take?"

Or that the song has the audacity to follow the line "Yesterday was Thursday/Today it is Friday/We so excited/We gonna have a ball today" with "Tomorrow is Saturday/Sunday comes afterwards."

Unless this song was aimed at educating first graders on the days of the week, I think these lines are hilariously condescending. The songwriters are insulting fans of today's pop music, who will embrace almost any lyrical content.

The lyrics are so beautifully ludicrous only a professional could write them. And neither Miss Black nor Ark Music Factory CEO Patrice Wilson are true professionals.



GRAPHIC BY ALICIA PALENYY - STATE HORNET

Wilson is the "mastermind," to use the term loosely, behind "Friday." He produced the song and video, and also is the "rapper," to use a term even more loosely, during the song's breakdown.

Rebecca Black is a likable enough girl. At 13 she is neither pretty nor ugly, but would look right at home in one of Disney's afternoon tween shows.

She has been interviewed many times since "Friday" went viral, and her interview on Good Morning America provided some more clues about the song's real origins.

Her mother, who could also be in on the joke, was asked how the criticism of her daughter made her feel.

"In all honesty I could have killed a few people," she said.

She didn't say it as a joke. Or with a wink. She said it straight-faced the same way Will Ferrell would in one of his over-the-top comedy roles.

That made me think the whole family is in on it. If that even is her family. What mom would admit to contemplating murder that dryly on national television. A mom who isn't a mom at all, but an actress hired to portray an odd and borderline psychotic "pageant-mom."

Yea, I'm taking this conspiracy theory and running with it.

Which brings me back to Rebecca. She claims to be 13 but looks older to me. Perhaps a 16-year-old actress playing a young naive wannabe pop star? Sounds intriguing and believable enough to me.

Sure there's the slight chance that she's just a 13-year-old girl who wanted to write a song and had no problem more pressing than the stressful car seat decision.

But the "it is what it is" theory is not nearly as fun.

Oh, I mean, "fun fun fun fun!"

STATE HORNET OPINION ONLINE

PODCAST: Kelly Walters can't stand the overbearing smell of curry in the Union. Can't they tone it down a bit? Listen in on Thursday.

ORAL EXAM:
Is Skype sex worth the risk of your roommate walking in on you? Would you be better with sexting? Get all the answers you'll need from Brittany Bradley's column.

Do you want your name in the paper?
Send your comics or letters to the opinion editor at opinion@statehornet.com.

Program: Students can work part-time with government

Continued | page A1

be at least 20 years old and a graduate of a university or four-year college.

"It's full-time for almost a year, thus giving our fellows the opportunity to become very familiar with state government," Hodson said. "Most government/public service internships are part-time for a single quarter or semester. It's the difference between experiencing Mexico through a week in Cabo San Lucas vs. a year in Mexico City."

Max Carter-Oberstone is a 2007 graduate of Georgetown University where he double-majored in finance and French. It is his responsibility in the Senate Fellowship to help write bills, and assist the initiatives through the legislative process.

"You start right off the bat with a job it takes most people years to get," Carter-Oberstone said. "I think that's what really makes this a unique and special opportunity. There's no other way to replicate this experience straight out of college."

Mark Grisby, director of the Executive Fellowship program, said one of the best ways to get in the program is to show enthusiasm for public service.

"You should definitely show some interest in public service. It doesn't mean you have to have worked in a government agency or volunteered on a political campaign – you could have just volunteered through a nonprofit," Grisby said.

Donna Hoenig-Couch, director of the Judicial Administration Fellowship, said the program is very competitive, but does not think that should discourage students from participating.



FILE PHOTO

The Capital Fellows have 64 members who work within districts in California.

"What makes us unique is that California itself is unique, and we are known as the bellwether state, and certainly are known for the kinds of changes that occur nationwide," Hoenig-Couch said.

Ravi Patel is a UC Berkeley alumnus who is in the Judicial Fellowship. He is now working at the Placer County Superior Court in Roseville.

"The fellowship has been an amazing experience," Patel said. "I think, like most people, prior to the fellowship I had no idea how complex and different courts were and the directors of the program really make it a priority to give us a deep experience."

Abesa thinks one of the reasons the program gives graduates a great experience in government is simply being in California.

"The program gives fellows firsthand experience in governing the most robust state in the country," she said. "The state faces a plethora of issues – environmental concerns, rapid demographic changes, budget crunches, rising unemployment rates, prison overcrowding, educational crises, you name it – and yet it remains a major force in United States and in the world."

Hodson said this achievement is also notable because of what the recognition means to the CSU system.

"I think that too often both the CSU and CSUS are underrated, often by academic snobs who assume anything good must come from a UC or a private (school)," Hodson said. "Having a CSU-based program ranked nationally is a powerful indication of what the CSU and this campus is capable of achieving."

See related editorial on A5

Art: Sac State professor sets up 'The Real Fake' gallery

Continued | page A1

historical junctures, but I think traditional medium such as painting, continue to be relevant and always will be. They are historic forms and allow a viewer to see continuity between the past and the future," Hart said. "Nevertheless, 3-D computer graphics will become more and more broadly used. They are just at the beginning of being adopted by contemporary artists."

Library Gallery director Philip Hitchcock, alumnus of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, was among the first to explore this medium.

"Thirty years ago I was an instructor at the institute and we called this art form genitive systems. We started out using Xerox machines and analog computers, we started some of the very first computer graphics," Hitchcock said.

Since the inception of genitive systems 30 years ago, the art in the Library gallery can clearly be seen with the use of video projectors, LCD monitors and Apple computers.

He said if the medium can get a person to think outside the box, then it has done its job.

"I think I really enjoy people who use pencils. If they really use them magically," Hitchcock said. "And if they use computers magically to change my intellectual vision, like a pencil, then I am very excited."

Hitchcock said the goal of gallery is to have community infer as to the true meaning of a work of art based on their senses and experiences.

"The media is not the message. The message is gained from what one sees and how a person's horizons have been opened by it," Hitchcock said. "It is like interpreting a pizza. A pizza is not always the same to the next person."

Sac State assistant professor and co-curator Rachel Clarke said she was enticed by the medium for its unique characteristics.

"I was really interested in the properties of the medium. Because the artist can literally generate complete environments from scratch," Clarke said. "It is entirely up to the imagination of the artist as to what they create. You are not restricted by anything that exists in the real world. Everyone should know what game designers and the film industry does with 3-D, we want the public to know as well. The idea of artists working with this technology and using their imagination in this medium is very new and young."

Hart anticipates favorable reactions from the public as the exhibit presents a new opportunity for the public to experience something new.

"I hope they are engaged and challenged and also delighted. I think the magic-realism quality of this type of work is very seductive and draws people into it, and I hope all of the work in the show does that," Hart said.

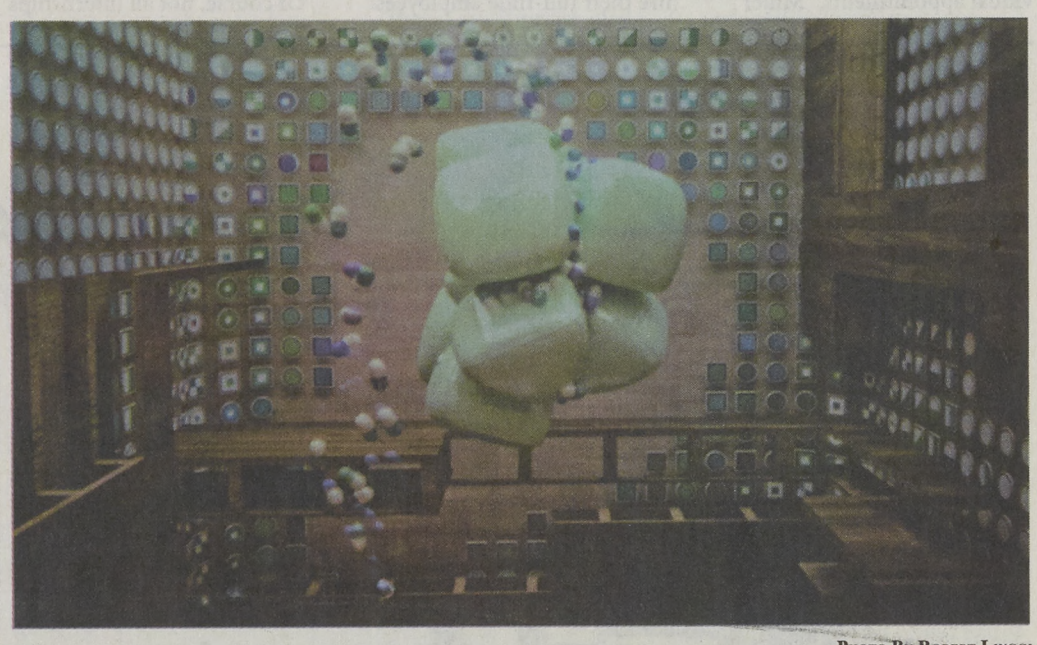


PHOTO BY ROBERT LINGGI

A piece titled "Peripetics or The Installation of an Irreversible Axis on a Dynamic Timeline" by the artizt Zeitguised is projected on a wall of the Library Gallery.

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION

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www.csac.ca.gov





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HIGHLIGHTING HUMAN DISCONNECTION

By Erin Rogers
erogers@statehornet.com

A tree with a built-in urinal is not something seen every day, even in the art world. But senior studio art major Phillip Altstatt's installation exhibit features one – and a chair-eating floor.

An installation exhibit typically takes a space and transforms it completely into something else.

"I decided to utilize the entire room so that viewers could actually walk into the art," Altstatt said. "That way they can actually be a part of the art rather than just observe my work."

For his exhibit, "Disconnection from the Natural World," Altstatt and his wife Amy laid more than 300 square feet of tile to transform the entire Witt Gallery at Sacramento State.

"He actually handmade some of the tiles, which was probably the most difficult task of the whole exhibit," Amy Altstatt said. "Once we were able to find a medium that would hold together, we finally got it."

After being inspired by a vivid dream, Phillip Altstatt said he felt compelled to create his vision and showcase his creativity.

"In my dream, I was literally standing there looking at this chair sinking into the tiles," Altstatt said. "I want the viewers to see exactly what I saw."

Another source of inspiration for Altstatt comes from philosophical books during his high school years.

"The main message I got from the books I read was that we have all of these programs to counteract the fact that our world is ultimately falling apart," he said. "We are a river flowing in the wrong direction and we use certain programs or barriers to slow the process down."

With the tiles and sinking chair, Altstatt said his message is to show viewers just how unstable society can be.

"We sit on the chair instead of the earth and we put shoes on our feet to keep from actually touching the ground," Altstatt said. "We have all these little barriers that disconnect us from the natural world."

His ultimate message, Altstatt said, is that the ground beneath us can slip away at any moment, exposing just how unbalanced society is.

To continue with the disconnection theme, Altstatt said his urinal tree shows another barrier between society and the Earth.

"Bathrooms are something that didn't always exist," Altstatt said. "It's just something else we created to distance ourselves from the ground beneath us."

To actually see the life-size urinal tree and impressive tile work, students are encouraged to see Altstatt's free exhibit in the Witt Gallery.

"This is an opportunity for students of other disciplines and other art students to meet me and see the work that I create," Altstatt said.

Art professor Evri Kwong said these free art exhibits put on by Sac State are a nice way for students from all disciplines to see talented pieces of art.

"Art allows people to truly express themselves in a creative manner," Kwong said. "Students don't have to be art majors to appreciate the work created or to be inspired to use art in their own discipline."

Not only do these art shows inspire viewers, Kwong said, these students exhibits are also important for students to meet people outside of their discourse or people they would not normally see in their classes.

"These free receptions allow students to mingle and meet other members of the Sac State community," Kwong said. "Many students don't know about these great art showcases."

Altstatt agrees with Kwong.

"There may be a musician on campus who may write phenomenal music that we may never hear because we are so involved with our own majors," Altstatt said. "I'm just hoping to get my artwork out there and have people see my passion."





Jesse Charlton State Hornet

The reception for Phillip Altstatt's exhibit is from 6 to 9 p.m. today in the Witt Gallery.

Robert Linggi State Hornet

Left: The idea for Phillip Altstatt's art exhibit came to him in a dream. Right: Phillip Altstatt, senior studio art major, poses at his exhibit "Disconnection from the Natural World" on Monday.

New Millenium Series Gala to showcase 'hidden' talent

By Alex Grotewohl
agrotewohl@statehornet.com

Any department at any university should be judged primarily on the skill and accomplishments of its students. The performers at Tuesday's faculty gala would confirm this, if asked; They are the teachers who make Sacramento State's music program tick. Tuesday, though, is all about them.

The event, part of the music department's New Millennium Series, will showcase a handful of acts, all of them featuring at least one current Sac State faculty member. Cello professor Andrew Luchansky said students have reason to be excited about this spectacle.

"It is a rare and special opportunity to hear Sacramento State's extraordinary faculty performing right here on campus," he said. "It will be a fun, exciting and relaxed atmosphere."

Professor Tim Stanley will perform at the gala with his group Citywater. Stanley works with a program called the String Project, which brings young musicians from elementary and middle schools to Sac State for intensive training. He said his main goal is to give promising performers a path to playing professionally.

Stanley said Citywater, recently named Sac State's "ensemble in residency," plays mainly chamber music written in the past 20 to 30 years. The group will present American composer Pierre Jalbert's "Visual Abstract" on Tuesday, which Stanley described as having "some interesting musical ideas that really can only be late 20th and early 21st century ideas."

He said the first movement is called "Bells," and calls for all six instruments to mimic the sound of a bell in its own way. At the same time, a recording will run the sound of a bell backwards, which means instead of an impact followed by a fading ring, it will be the other way around. Also notable is the third movement, titled "Dance." Stanley said this may be tongue-in-cheek on the part of the composer, since the movement's irregular time signatures make it virtually impossible to dance to.

Drums professor Dan Kennedy will also be on hand, performing with his group the Rootstock Percussion Trio. Kennedy is in his 18th year at Sac State, and he is joined in his band by Chris Froh, a professor at UC Davis, who teaches part time in the percussion studio at Sac State.

Rootstock will also perform a contemporary piece, "Parade" by Chinese composer Wenjing Gou. The selection is played on an instrument called Chinese opera gongs, which lies flat on a table and produce different tones depending on where they are struck. Kennedy described the tones created by using different implements to strike the various spots as "sonically colorful."

"I think it will open peoples' ears to the new directions that percussion is going," he said.

Sac State violin professor

see **Concert**| page B2



Chris Chiang State Hornet

New music ensemble Citywater practices on Sunday for an upcoming concert in Capistrano Hall. Citywater will be performing songs by contemporary composers on April 15 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Reviving rivalry at Family Feud

By Erin Rogers
erogers@statehornet.com

KSSU is continuing the celebration of its 20th anniversary at Sacramento State by bringing a little bit of the 1970s to the year 2011.

UNIQUE Programs and KSSU are presenting their annual Family Feud game today at noon in the University Union Redwood Room with host Marty Valentine, a.k.a Marty McFly.

"We're trying to re-hash the general concept of the original game show but with modern questions," said Valentine, senior mathematics major.

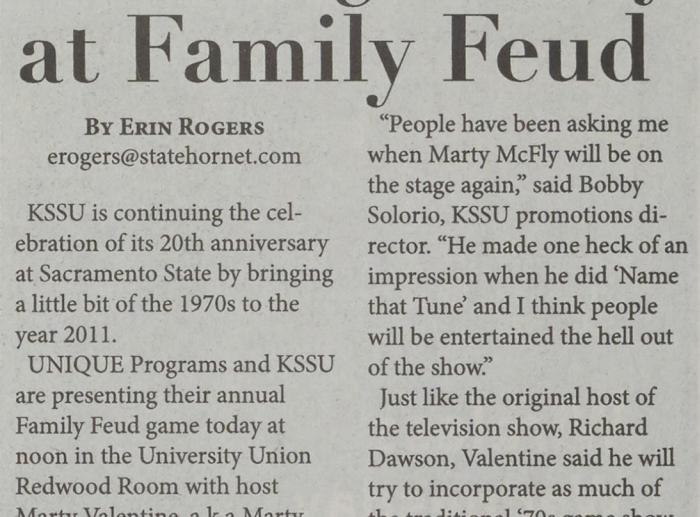
Valentine has hosted other events like "Name that Tune" and last year's Family Feud.

"People have been asking me when Marty McFly will be on the stage again," said Bobby Solorio, KSSU promotions director. "He made one heck of an impression when he did 'Name that Tune' and I think people will be entertained the hell out of the show."

Just like the original host of the television show, Richard Dawson, Valentine said he will try to incorporate as much of the traditional '70s game show as he can, especially through his game-day attire.

"I am absolutely going to wear the cheesy suit, which happens to be my favorite color: orange," Valentine said. "You can't do

see **Game**| page B2



Graphic by Megan Harris State Hornet

CLUB CORNER | PEACE AND CONFLICT INTERNATIONAL



STEVEN TURNER STATE HORNET

Junior government majors Matt Fehse, seated, and Brandon Marshall of Peace and Conflict Internationl spent Monday afternoon selling $2 bracelets in the Library Quad to raise money to feed kids in earthquake-ravaged Haiti and Japan.

CSUS students raise money, awareness for world issues

BY ALEX GROTEWOHL
agrotewohl@statehornet.com

The life of a student can be a hectic one. Between seemingly endless homework and holding down one or more jobs, it is easy to forget the millions of people worldwide dealing with war and starvation. The members of campus club Peace & Conflict International think this is important to keep in mind.

Senior government major Joe Romero founded the group in spring 2008 in an effort to raise awareness on campus about worldwide issues. Each week, the club meets to discuss a different dilemma facing the world.

At their most recent meeting, the student-led discussion focused on the civil war in Libya. Club President Liliana Rivera, senior government major, said while debates can get heated, attendees often find common ground.

"Some people supported the (U.S.) intervention (and) some opposed it," she said. "I think we all agree on the fact that (Libyan President Muammar) Gaddafi needs to go."

The club has about 15 core members, and the attendance at any discussion can range from 20 to40 students.

Eventually, though, people stop wanting to talk about pressing issues and start wanting to take action. Rivera said the club came to this realization last semester.

"We would leave depressed because (we thought), 'What are we supposed to do about it now?'" she said.

So this semester, the club is selling rubber bracelets in an effort to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The bracelets, which sell for $2 each, benefit Children's Hope International, a nonprofit organization helping orphan children in the devastated island nation.

On Thursday, the group will host a guest speaker from the University of Maryland in the Orchard Suite. The talk will focus on rebuilding communities after a conflict has taken place there.

To paraphrase an old truism, someone always has it harder than you. It is often too easy to lose track of how fortunate college students are in the United States. The people of Peace & Conflict International feel they are in the perfect position to help those who have fallen on hard times.

Interested students can email internationalpeace-conflict@gmail.com for information.

Concert: CSUS music faculty will perform, display skills

Continued | page B1

Ian Swensen is also slated to perform Tuesday. He will bring along pianist Eric Zivian, and they will be playing "Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major" by Dutch composer Cesar Franck.

Swensen has been at Sac State for eight years. Luchansky, an acquaintance of Swensen, asked him to fill in at the last minute for a professor who had left mid-semester. Swensen was raised around music, as his mother played piano and his father was a clarinet instructor at The Julliard School.

He has toured the world with various musical groups, and has played in many unusual venues, including the Moab Festival in Utah, which takes place in a grotto along the Colorado River. He remembers one show in Japan as particularly serene, "during a time of year when the rice fields all turn bright gold."

"I remember playing at a monastery there, (the) people all sitting on the floor," Swensen said. "With rice paper walls and bamboo floors, it was just really beautiful."

This summer, Swensen plans to teach young children at a conservatory in Shanghai.

Perhaps among the most excited to see Swensen play is Citywater's Stanley. He described Swensen in particular as one of the best violinists in the world.

"Every time I hear (Swensen) play, I walk away just astounded at what he can do on the violin," Stanley said. "The fact that I keep getting to hear him play because he is at the same school as me, it is just the fates really smiling down on me."

Stanley said just because an event is close by and inexpensive does not mean it will not be worth seeing. He said this show will provide students with an opportunity to see high-caliber talent they may not have known lives in their own backyard.

"It is going to be world class," he said. "it is almost silly not to go."

The New Millenium Faculty Gala is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Capistrano Hall.

Game: KSSU, UNIQUE will duke it out at today's show

Continued | page B1

a '70s game show without a cheesy suit – that's just unacceptable."

There are two rounds of Family Feud, the first with two teams of recreation parks and tourism administration majors, and the second being KSSU vs. UNIQUE.

Everyone involved in the show, from the contestants to the host and staff running the event will be a student.

"(This event) allows the students to be involved rather than just being entertained," Solorio said. "We want the students to feel that they can be a part of this campus in some way or form, especially outside of class."

Solorio was unable to comment about this year's questions due to the possibility of unfair advantages to either team. However, he said the teams will be asked questions involving general pop culture, music and sports.

Since Family Feud revolves around survey questions, UNIQUE Programs and KSSU surveyed the student body at several events for answers.

"(But) there is no cheating - none of the contestants on either team participated in the survey or know the questions," Solorio said.

When asked about the rivalry between KSSU and UNIQUE, Solorio said KSSU is defending their title from last year's Family Feud.

"KSSU did win over the corrupt and evil organization that is UNIQUE. I say this with complete sarcasm, but we are going to win," Solorio said.

UNIQUE Programs Director Zenia LaPorte said she is game for a little competition.

"We threw them a bone last year and let them win," LaPorte said. "We thought they needed an ego boost because that win's all they've got on UNIQUE.

Besides the friendly competition, Solorio said he is looking forward to watching the feud as an audience member rather than running the event.

"Seeing the 'families' interacting with each other and having fun sounds really entertaining," Solorio said. "But seeing Marty on stage will be the best part.

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Athletes tested positive for drug use

By Joe Fleming
jfleming@statehornet.com

Several players on the Sacramento State baseball team tested positive for drugs during regular testing.

The season for Sac State has gotten off to a rough start, going 6-19. Players, such as junior catcher Derrick Chung, were surprised when they realized some teammates decided to use drugs.

"I was pretty shocked to be honest. I've played with those guys for three to four years now," Chung said. "It was kind of tough for me to (believe) in them."

Chung said there are players who failed the test twice, players he knew very well and has been playing with for several years. He said it is because of peer pressure that players experiment with drugs such as marijuana. But just like a family, he wants them back on the team clean and committed to the guys. He said head coach Reggie Christiansen called for the veterans on the team to take control.

"He told the (veterans), we need stronger leadership out of the older guys," Chung said. "Because this kind of thing happens when you don't have great leadership."

During his freshman season in 2008, Chung said there were 13 seniors on the team and they did not let him get away with anything. He wants to deliver the same message to the young players now.

"We don't mess around. If you make a mistake and you understand it, then you're going to get punished," Chung said.

There are two players on the team who tested positive once before this season, but they decided to make the change and re-commit to being a Hornet. Although the two players, who remain anonymous, are back on the team, they had to work hard in order to gain their position back and earn trust with the teammates and coaches again.

"We've had them do community service. We've talked about it, and I think we've done everything possible, and at the end of the day, we've dismissed

see **Baseball** | page B6

Sports Updates

BASEBALL

at **SEATTLE**
APRIL 2
W 10-7

at **SEATTLE**
APRIL 2
W 3-2

at **SEATTLE**
APRIL 3
L 2-1

at **SEATTLE**
APRIL 3
W 3-1

at **HAWAII**
APRIL 8
3:35 P.M.

at **HAWAII**
APRIL 9
12:05 P.M.

at **HAWAII**
APRIL 10
10:05 A.M.

SOFTBALL

vs. **UC DAVIS**
MARCH 30
L 4-2

vs. **CAL**
APRIL 6
3 P.M.

MEN'S TENNIS

at **EASTERN WASHINGTON**
APRIL 1
W 4-3

vs. **MONTANA**
APRIL 6
1 P.M.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. **N. ARIZONA**
MARCH 27
W 6-1

vs. **WASHINGTON**
APRIL 2
W 4-3

at **EASTERN WASHINGTON**
APRIL 3
W 7-0

vs. **DENVER**
APRIL 8
1 P.M.

TRACK & FIELD

at **UC DAVIS**
APRIL 2
MEN: 1ST PLACE
WOMEN: 1ST PLACE

vs. **MONDO MULTI HORNET STADIUM**
APRIL 7- 8
TBA

vs. **MONDO MULTI**
APRIL 8- 9
TBA

SACRAMENTO MOUNTAIN LIONS | CHEERLEADERS CHOSEN



Robert Linggi State Hornet

The Sacramento Mountain Lions chose their Lady Lions on Friday, and they are: Regina M., Jeanette M., Jazmin A. (pictured, left), Kelly T., Malia H., Tori W., Sydni B., Dari H., Miriam M., Jeshura N. (right), Anjel P., Tinna W., Jenna M., Courtney H., Bailee B., Veronica N., Amanda M., Elizabeth R., Daisy H., Karisa G., Chelsea G., Roxanne C., Janell A., Brandi R., Kali G., Andrea K., Zarah R., Melanie H., Jessica N., Vanecia R., Courtney S., and Thannia G.

Gymnastics finishes its season in fourth place

By AJ Taylor
ataylor@statehornet.com

The Hornets gymnastics team finished fourth in the WAC Tournament this season, the team scored a 193.550 and sent freshman Kailey Hansen and senior Lissa Zamolo to the NCAA Regionals.

The Hornets exceeded preseason expectations and improved by 9.200 points. The team was predicted to finish last in the WAC tournament.

"We were strong, our last two scores were our highest of the season, one of them, the last home meet, was in our top ten high scores all time. It's just that they didn't put it together early enough," said head coach Kim Hughes.

All-arounders Jasmine Lipka and Amanda Blauvelt were expected to participate in this season, but were hampered by injuries. Lipka suffered from mono and was kept from competing for the first three weeks. Blauvelt was out with an ankle injury.



File Photo

Amanda Bieber performs her floor routine during a gymnastics exhibition at Yosemite Hall.

"The scores we had in the end we could have had in the middle had those people been able to pull through, because we were putting them in the lineup they just couldn't always perform at a level we needed them to," Hughes said.

Seniors Nicole Meiller and Katie Kinser also suffered injuries. Meiller and Kinser were also held from competing, Meiller missed three meets - Kinser all but four.

Kinser performed on floor in all 11 of the Hornet's meets last season, she scored as high as a 9.800 on floor in 2010. This season Kinser's highest score on floor was 9.325.

see **Gym** | page B6

DOUBLE COVERAGE

Baseball season is back in action



By Cassie Kolias
ckolias@statehornet.com

It is baseball season again, which means two things for me.

The first is that in general, I will be happier. Baseball season signals both the spring and summer seasons. It means that the sun will be shining and I will always have a smile on my face – at least as long as my team isn't performing terribly.

I will walk with a little more pep in my step knowing that when I get home from a long day at school, there will be baseball games to watch pretty much every day. It means I will probably frequently be wearing green and yellow ribbons in my hair.

Baseball season means that I will always have something to do. You can guarantee that if I have any free time whatsoever, you can find me somewhere at a ballpark sporting a jersey and a foam finger on my hand. Well that last part was a lie – I don't have a foam finger, no matter how much I wish I did.

It means fireworks from the field, it means Thirsty Thursdays, and it means warm nights. Baseball season means that I can talk about sports with anyone who wants to, because baseball is a sport I know unlike any other.

The second thing that baseball season means is that I will hate my life in Sacramento.

see **Summer** | page B6

Freshmen baseball players take lead in pitching rotation

By Anthony Honrade
ahonrade@statehornet.com

Though basketball and baseball have almost no similarities, the Sacramento State baseball team is taking a page out of the Michigan Fab 5 playbook.

This season, head coach Reggie Christiansen is employing a new tactic in the pitching rotation by starting freshmen and having the upperclassmen finish out the games.

"We thought initially that going into the season, it would be better for freshmen to start games as opposed to coming out of the bullpen," Christiansen said. "We wanted to give them more of a routine to be on so they know when they're pitching so they can prepare that way."

Christiansen felt these changes would be beneficial and appropriate because it gives the freshmen experience, and also benefits the veterans.

"It gives the older guys the harder innings to pitch in, which is the seventh, eighth and ninth," Christiansen said. "Those guys have done that before, and I just think it makes more sense."

Though they might not be sponsored in an ESPN documentary, the freshmen have another thing in common with the former Michigan starters – talent.

"They're talented, and I think they're deserving of it," Christiansen said.

If anyone can vouch for the talent of these freshmen, it would be the person behind home plate, catcher Derrick Chung.

"They have a lot of talent," Chung said. "If they just keep working hard, they're going to be really good."

Christiansen admits it might have been tough for some of the older pitchers to lose their starting positions, but most of them understand the decision made by the coaching staff is for the betterment of the team.

"They were disappointed, but I think that they understand it's in the best interest of our program that way," Christiansen said.

The maturity level of the older pitchers is something that Christiansen commends.

"Our older guys understand that our pitching hasn't been that great like last year," Christian said. "They're older so they understand what we're trying to do here and we have next year to look forward to."

Chung also thinks the changes in lineup are a good idea, and that it helps to use the upperclassmen talent in later innings.

"They're more use to coming out the bullpen because they did it last year so they're more use to it," Chung said. "They've been really good for us. When the freshmen struggle, they basically slow everything down and use their experience."

With the team record at 6-19, Christiansen was looking for a different outcome to start the season. But he knows that with time, the freshmen will improve.

"It certainly hasn't worked out like we have hoped in terms of wins and losses, but I think these freshmen have done a pretty good job," Christiansen said. "That's just what it's like being a freshman."

The move to have the freshmen start is something that Christiansen hopes will help the team not only in this season, but also in the seasons to come.

"We're trying to build our program and at some point we believe this is going to be a special place," Christiansen said. "Obviously anytime you try to build something, you're going to have some obstacles that come your way. We're having a hard time overcoming those things and I think we all just need to look ourselves in the mirror and find a better way."

The pitchers feel a sense of pressure to do well since they are starting over some of the upperclassmen, but the pitching staff for Sac State said they need to rely on each other in order to succeed.

"There's some pressure, but we get a lot of support from everyone," said freshman pitcher Shea Lukes. "When someone has a bad day, we all know what we're going through. They treat us with respect, and we treat them with respect because they pick us up when we're down."

Lukes knows that even as freshmen, the group already has a lot of talent.

"We have a great future ahead of us. We're not really looking at the future because the things we can do then, we can absolutely do now," Lukes said. "There's nothing that we can't do now that we can't do in a few years. We just haven't found the groove yet, and it all comes with time."

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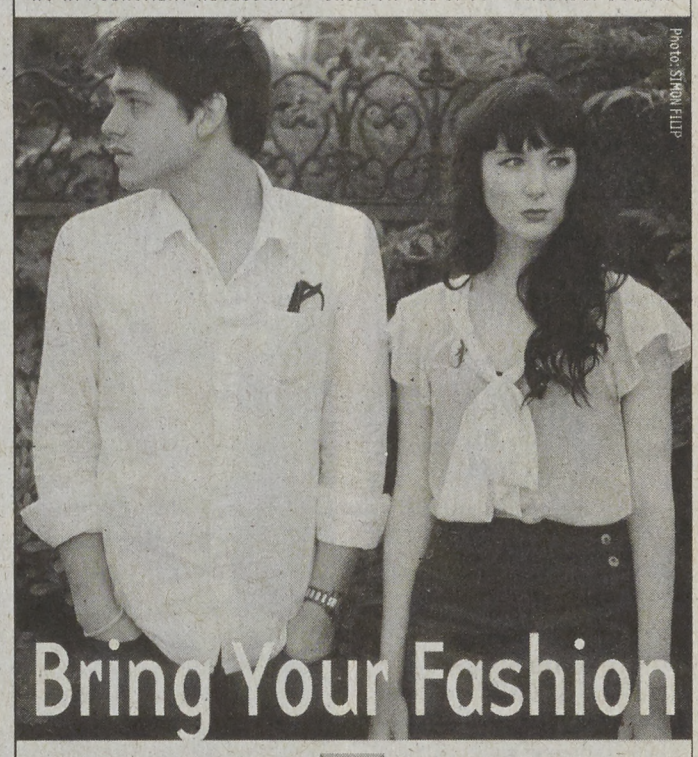
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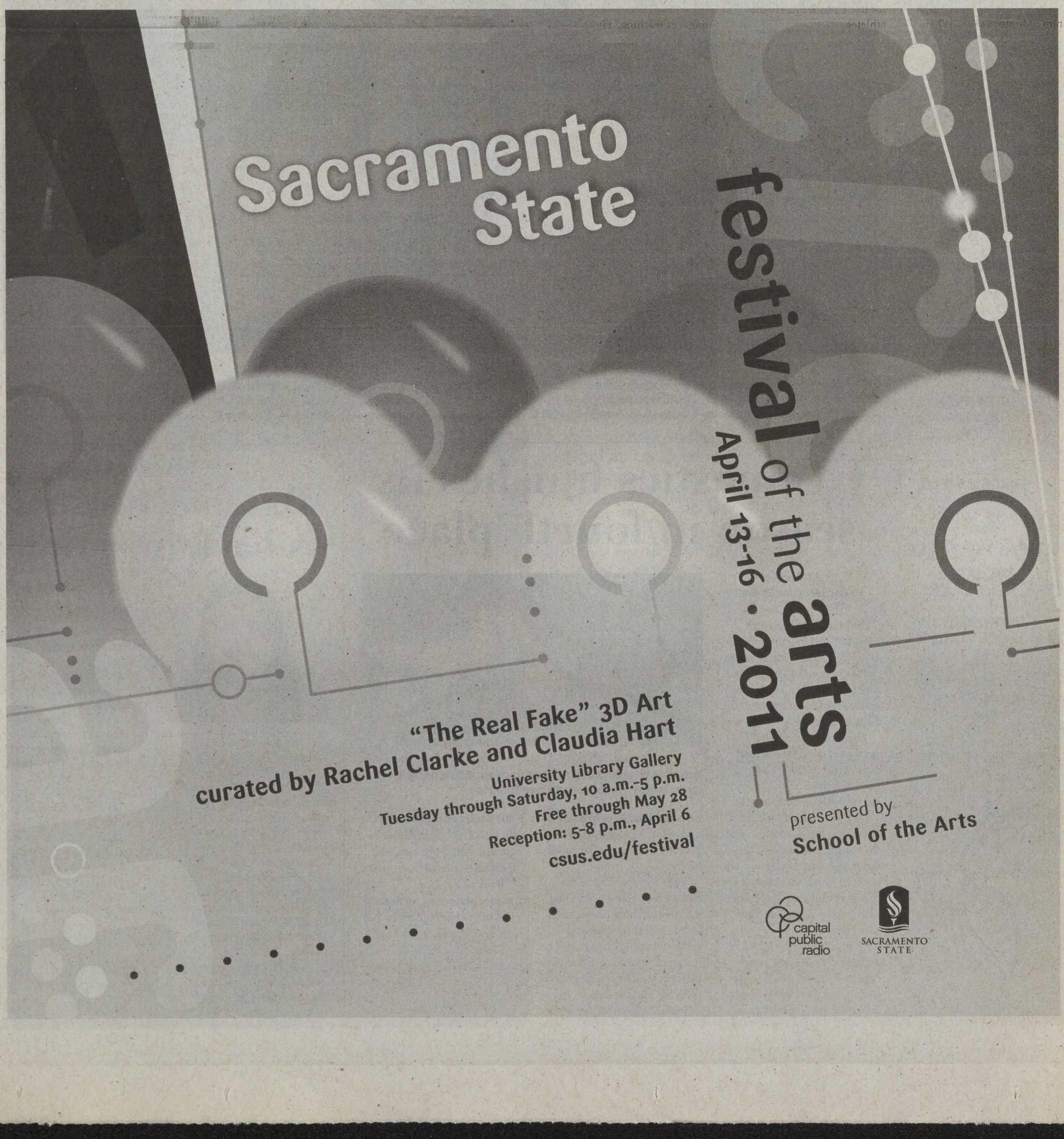
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Longest-tenured coach ends 30th season with Hornets

By AJ Taylor
atyalor@statehornet.com

It was 34 years ago when Kim Hughes began coaching the Hornet women's gymnastics team. He broke into the Sacramento State coaching scene right out of college, but he had an in. As a freshman undergraduate at Sac State, in 1971 Hughes placed third in conference on still rings.

He began as an assistant coach, and in 1982 he landed his first head coaching job. Only three seasons later, in 1984, Hughes would brought his Hornets to a conference championship.

Now in 2011, Hughes just finished his 30th season as head coach of the Hornets. And it is that number, 30, that places Hughes above all other Hornet coaches, making him the longest-tenured coach at Sac State.

Today, Hughes is grateful for his place in the lives of Hornet athletes. That is what he works for, he said.

"It's that opportunity to make a difference in some aspect of their life," Hughes said, "I'd say that's what motivates me."

Hughes has even seen celebrities pass through his gym. It was 1978, Hughes an assistant coach at the time, helped coach Kahea Bright onto the NCAA Nationals where she placed eighth on floor. After that season, Bright would go on to be a television dancer in the '80s variety show "Solid Gold."

In his time at Sac State Hughes has coached 25 Hornets onto regionals, and two to nationals.

The student-athletes he coaches now, like Maddie Montoya and Jasmine Lipka, admire him.

"He is a very patient coach and I really like that about him," Montoya said. "When you're having a tough day he'll come over to you and say 'It's OK, calm down.' He'll really be understanding about it."

This year the Hornets struggled with injuries to key gymnasts. Because of that, the freshman class had to step up and perform in these seniors' place.

"We just didn't know we would have this many injuries," Hughes said. "Our freshmen did well but I feel like we could have had them more prepared to compete by season on the other events. As coaches we didn't prepare them early enough."

The struggles throughout the season proved to be a teaching tool for the young gymnasts, an

Hughes teaches his athletes patience, confidence, and he prefers not to take a negative approach to his coaching. He prefers to build a successful team through positive reinforcement.

"Kim is a different type of coach" Lipka said. "He really cares about us as people. If you're on the competitive lineup or you're not, he treats everyone the same."

It is his way of making a positive difference in student-athlete's lives.

"I've felt OK about using positive reinforcement and making it an enjoyable experience and trying to get people to work under that kind of style to create a winning team," Hughes said. "I've never wanted to be a negative coach. I've kept that as my philosophy the whole time I've been here."

His method is tested over many years, and has been found to produce impressive results. Winning six conference championships and two Coach of the Year Awards speaks for itself, much like Hughes' athletes.

"He's been really patient with me through all my hard times and always very willing to work with me to get me to where I need to be, always extremely understanding and supportive," Lipka said. "He's helped me a ton, I couldn't imagine college without him."

Hughes has spent a number of years with many other organizations, and has been involved with the organization Youth Education through Sports since 1995.

But thinking into the future, about when he will retire, Hughes admits that he struggles to look beyond coaching.

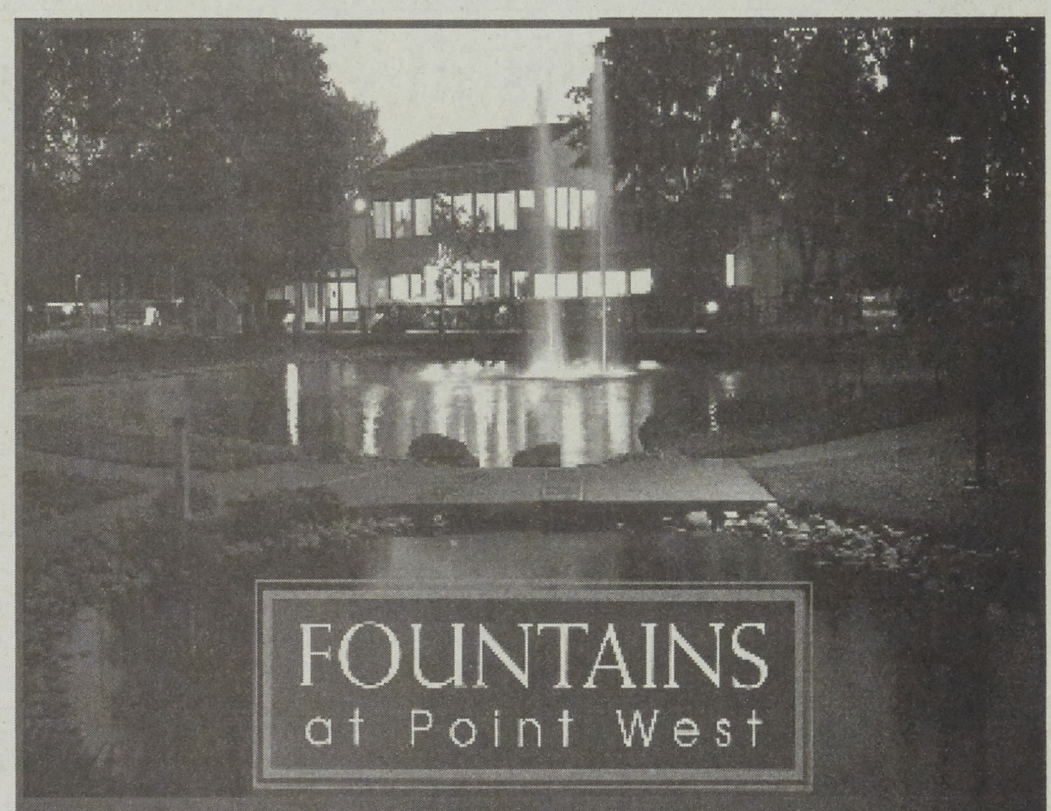
It's been my only job since I got out of college," Hughes said. "I try to think what I might do after I retire. I continue to struggle to think what will I do, what can I do, this is what I've done."

Every year he battles for his goal of a championship. Those who are around him every day, working with him at practice, fighting for him at the meets, say that they can see the spark in his eyes.

"He always has the same excitement, the same drive, the same positive attitude every day in the gym," Lipka said. "Even when we were having a bad day I knew I could come to bars and Kim would be there and say 'How you doing Jasmine?' Just help me to be where I need to be on my bad days."

Hughes said if he ever decides to leave, call it quits, take everything – his championships, awards, memories, rare skills and qualities with him, he would ask his boss to leave him only one thing: his passion for teaching.

"Nothing motivates me as much as teaching," Hughes said.



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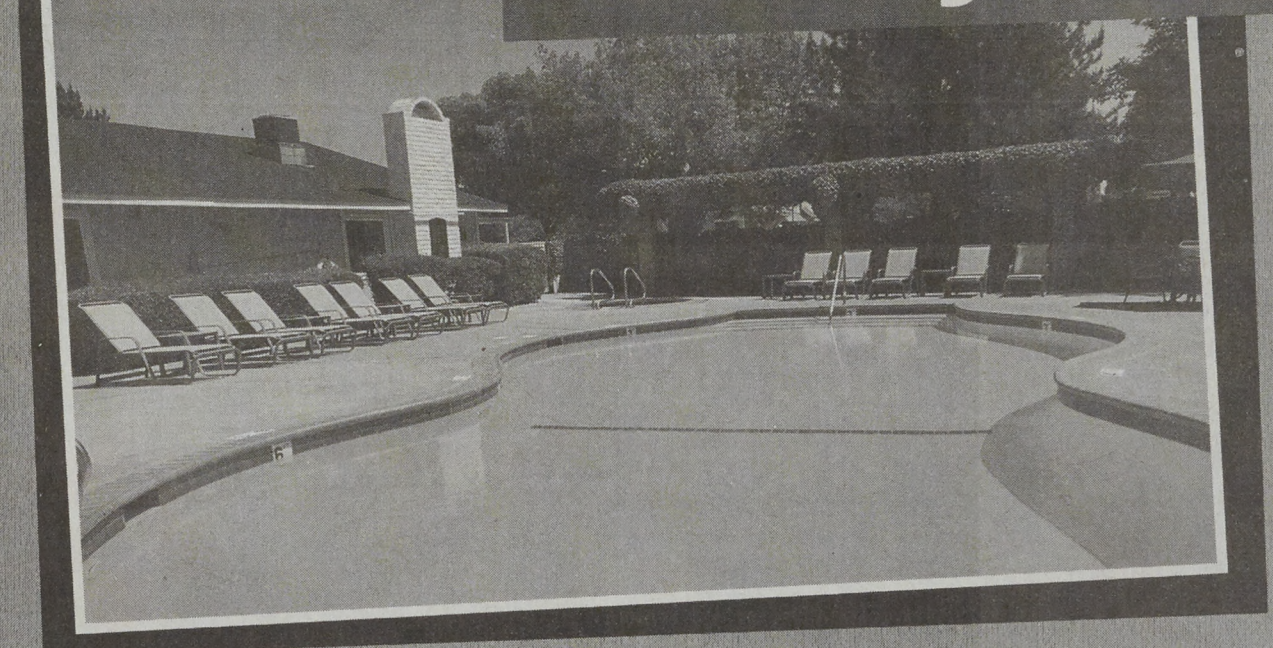
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Baseball: Players in violation are suspended for the season

Continued | page B3

players," Christiansen said. "They understand the rules."

Christiansen also said he is unhappy with the effort his team is putting forth in the classroom. The team ranks low in academics and he said fixing some of these off-the-field problems will improve play on the diamond.

"We certainly have something going on and we're trying to change the culture. You're here to go to class and be a baseball player and do the right things on and off the field," Christiansen said. "We're not going to be a program that's a renegade. We need to do a better job representing this university."

The NCAA is not vague when it describes the drug policy. It i s very straightforward and to the point. There is a list of drugs that are prohibited and, according to the NCAA Drug-Testing Program pamphlet, "institutions and the student-athlete shall be held accountable for all drugs with in the banned drug class."

The athlete must sign a form annually provided by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports agreeing not to use any of the banned drugs. The coaching staff at the college and the NCAA makes it clear to the individual what is prohibited.

The players that tested positive were unable to comment, and the Athletic Director could not be reached at the time of press.

Senior infielder Kirby Young understands the rules and said he will back the coaching staff because teammates should know this is no place for drug use.

"From day one we had our team rules and if you do (drugs) you won't be around any longer. And I'm going to have my coaches back on that 100 percent," Young said.

"Some of them earned their way back on (the team) through two months of hell."

The "hell" Young describes was hours of working hard on preparing the baseball field, a wide variety community services such as helping at local little leagues, and many discussions between coach and player.

For Chung, baseball is not just a fun sport to play or a way to impress the girls. It is a lifestyle, and drugs would only jeopardize the thing he loves most.

"I've been here for four years. Baseball has been my life. I've given 100 percent and hopefully everybody is giving everything they've got," Chung said. "I literally spend more time bonding with these guys than with my family. This is my family and I love everybody. Hopefully we can step-up and start playing better."

Christiansen said there is a connection between the struggles of life and the failures of baseball.

"We're really trying to find out how important baseball is to some of these guys and I don't think we're asking too much," Christiansen said. "The bottom line is there are rules in life and consequences for the mistakes we make, and baseball's really no different than life."

Summer: Teams have clean slates

Continued | page B3

When I moved here last summer I learned quickly that as an A's fan, I was a rarity.

When I lived in the Bay Area, the fans were split down the middle and I was never an outcast. The minute I moved north, everyone "bleeds" orange and black (sorry but last time I checked we all bleed red.)

It also doesn't help my cause that they won the World Series, so now Sacramento baseball fans have probably tripled because everyone loves a bandwagon.

So Giants fans, the playing field is now leveled. The slate is clean. The A's and the Giants have equal chances at a title as it is.

Folks, it's a new season. I don't want to see your status updates on Facebook. I don't want to see your Tweets with hashtags that say #orangeandblack or #worldchampions. And in general I just don't want to talk about the World Series last year. To me, none of that matters now.

Oh, and last time I checked it's pretty embarrassing for the World Champs to lose on Opening Day.

Gym: Injury-filled season ends

Continued | page B3

These injuries paved the way for younger gymnasts to compete at the college level. For many, it was their first time.

"The beginning of the season was rough," Montoya said. "I think everybody was getting adjusted to it. Once we finally figured it out it made the season go a lot smoother."

Guerrero topped out with a 9.800 on floor, Kilwein with a 9.750 on floor and Osaki scored a 9.850 on floor in the team's last home meet.

"I don't feel that we're having to start over next year," Hughes said. "I feel like we did start right now. They knew how important it was right off the bat. And most of them performed at a pretty high level for us."

The Hornets finished strong with a 195.075 in their last home meet, their best score of the season, and one of the best in school history.

"Our class has been through a lot," Lipka said. "Each individual had their own issues. The senior meet is when it really clicked for all of us and we all had a really good meet. To have us all finish and do our best, it was special."

Hughes can appreciate the experience that the freshman class gained this season. Hansen, Guerrero, Kilwein and Osaki performed in all eleven meets, Montoya competed in eight.

"I think that they'll come back and be a really strong part of the team next year," Hughes said.

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